

November 7, 2016

**NOTICE TO FILE INFORMATION REGARDING
CALIFORNIA CITRUS PRODUCERS**

(Response Due by December 6, 2016)

TO ALL CALIFORNIA CITRUS HANDLERS:

Every five years, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) is required to conduct a referendum among citrus producers in the state to determine if they favor the continuation of the California Citrus Research Program. The last such referendum was conducted in 2012. Therefore, the Department is making preparations to conduct a similar vote regarding the continuation of this program in January of 2017.

In order to proceed with this process, the Department must first establish a list of California citrus producers. Once this list is established, all producers of record will be given the opportunity to vote on whether or not the California Citrus Research Program shall continue to remain operative for another five years.

The Department needs the cooperation and assistance of all citrus handlers and processors in order to establish an accurate list of producers. Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of the California Marketing Act (Sections 58601 - 59293 of the Food and Agricultural Code), notice is hereby given to handlers of California citrus to file with the Department, no later than December 6, 2016, the following information relating to the receipt of California citrus during the period of October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016:

1. The full name, address, and phone number of your firm if you received California citrus from producers (including your firm if you are also a producer) during the 2015-2016 season referenced above; and
2. The total volume (reported in 40 lb. standard field boxes) of California citrus received by your firm for marketing, processing, packing, or transferring to another handler; and
3. The name, address, phone number, and respective volume (reported in 40 lb. standard field boxes) of each California producer (including your firm if you are also a producer) from whom your firm received California citrus.

All information submitted by handlers pursuant to this process will remain confidential, according to Section 58781 of the Food and Agricultural Code. Please contact this office if you would like more information on the issue of confidentiality.

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How to submit the requested information:

Enclosed with this letter you will find a Handler Report Form with a separate Producer Information section. Please complete all sections of these forms and mail them to:

CDFA Marketing Branch
Attn: Beth Jensen
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 94814-5603

Completed forms may also be submitted electronically to the email address below:

beth.jensen@cdfa.ca.gov

In lieu of completing the enclosed Producer Information section of this report, you may submit your own forms or computer printouts as long as they contain the same fields. An electronic version of the Producer Information form may be downloaded at www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/citrus. In an effort to save postage costs and reduce data entry time and errors, we encourage you to submit the requested information electronically if possible.

Your cooperation in submitting this important information is greatly appreciated. If you do not respond to this request, you may be denying citrus producers who ship fruit to your firm an opportunity to participate in the upcoming referendum regarding the continuation of the California Citrus Research Program. For this reason, reporting this information within 30 days of the date of this letter is required by Section 58775 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.

If you have any questions about this process or the information requested, please call Kacie Fritz, CDFA Program Liaison to the Citrus Research Board, at 916-900-5095.

Sincerely,



Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch

Enclosures